

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 remain pending in the application. Applicant, by this paper, amends claims 1 and 11. No new matter is added by amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Discussion of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,793,621 to Yamada et al. (hereinafter the '621 reference) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,425 to Yamada et al. (hereinafter the '425 reference). Claims 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the '621 reference in view of the '425 reference and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020145888 to Yoshinga et al. (hereinafter Yoshinga).

Arguments

Claim 1 recites a power supply. The claimed power supply includes a voltage generating section, a drive control section, and a drive-control voltage supply section. This power supply can reduce power consumption in a standby state and launch its own operation from a standby state.

The Examiner contends that the claimed voltage generating section corresponds to a rectifying and smoothing circuit 3, a d.c. to d.c. converter circuit 6, an output rectifying and smoothing circuit 9, and an output rectifying and smoothing circuit 10 of reference '621. Also, the Examiner maintains that the claimed drive control section and the claimed drive-control voltage supply section correspond to a switch driver circuit 66 and a switch control circuit 51, respectively, of reference '621.

Applicant respectfully believes that the Examiner's rejection of the claims is based on a misunderstanding of the claimed structure. The drive control voltage of the present application is the power supply voltage for the drive control section of the present application. In other words, the drive-control voltage supply section of the present application can act as the power source of the drive control section of the present application.

At best, the portions of the '621 reference that are even remotely similar to the claimed drive-control voltage supply section correspond to a resistor 63, a capacitor 21, a transformer quaternary 15, and a diode 20. Similarly, interpreted in its most favorable light, a resistor 18 and a capacitor 11 of reference '425 are the portions of reference '425 that even remotely correspond to the drive-control voltage supply section of the present application.

The drive-control voltage supply section according to the present invention, upon startup of the power supply, applies the drive control voltage to the power supply line of the drive control section to cause the drive control section to initiate drive and control of the voltage generating section. (From Claim 1, "a drive-control voltage supply section (8) which, upon startup of said power supply, applies said drive control voltage to said power supply line of said drive control section (6) to cause said drive control section (6) to initiate drive and control of said voltage generating section.").

Additionally, the claimed drive control voltage supply section causes the drive control section to stop operation of a drive control section of the voltage generation section and to stop, by lowering the drive control voltage, its own operation when an output current to be supplied to the load becomes less than a preset current value. (From Claim 1, "a drive-control voltage supply section (8)...causes said drive control section (6) to stop operation of the drive control section of said voltage generation section and to stop, by lowering said drive control voltage (V_{c3}), its own operation when an output current to be supplied to said load becomes less than a preset current value.").

Furthermore, the claimed drive control voltage supply section raises the drive control voltage to reactivate the drive control section after a predetermined time elapses since stopping of the operation of the drive control section. (From Claim 1, "a drive-control voltage supply section (8)...raises said drive control voltage to reactivate said drive control section (6) after a predetermined time elapses since stopping of the operation of said drive control section (6).").

By comprising a drive-control voltage supply section with these features, the power supply can reduce power consumption in a standby state and launch its own operation

from a standby state. The cited '621 and '425 references fail to teach or suggest any comparable structure that accomplishes this functionality. Indeed, the '621 and '425 references fail to even teach or suggest the claimed combination of functions performed by the claimed drive control voltage supply section.

In stark contrast, the combination of the resistor 63, the capacitor 21, the transformer quaternary 15, and the diode 20 of the cited '621 reference does not perform the operation of the claimed drive-control voltage supply section of the present application. As well, this claimed operation is not performed by the resistor 18 and the capacitor 11 of the cited '425 reference.

The devices of cited references '621 and '425 cannot launch their own operations from a standby state. Thus, each reference alone fails to teach or suggest the functionality of the claimed drive-control voltage supply section. The combination of the '621 reference with the '425 reference fails to teach or suggest those claimed features that are absent from both references. Combining cited references '621 and '425 fails to produce a teaching or suggestion for a device that can launch its own operation from a standby state. The claimed functionality cannot be achieved through combination of two references that share a common deficiency.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the '621 reference in combination with the '425 reference, because the references, whether alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every claimed feature. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 1.

Claim 11 recites a controlling method for a power supply. The method includes features similar to those discussed above in relation to claim 1. The addition of the Yoshinga reference to the '621 and '425 references fails to cure the deficiencies in the combination of the '621 and '425 references. Indeed, the Yoshinga reference fails to even describe a standby state or a power supply that can launch its own operation from a standby state. Thus, claim 11 is allowable at least for the reasons presented above in relation to claim 1, and because the addition of Yoshinga fails to cure the deficiencies in the combination of the '621 and '425 references. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 11.

Discussion of Dependent Claims

Claims 2-10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim.

Each of the dependent claims may have individual bases for patentability beyond those discussed above in relation to the independent claims. It is not necessary to discuss the patentable distinctions of each dependent claim because of the allowability of the base claims from which they depend.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the instant response is filed within the period for response provided for following Applicant's filing of a Notice of Appeal on August 12, 2008.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of the response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 20-1430. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100.

Respectfully submitted,



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